

HEALTH

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URBAN DISTRICT OF  
WINDERMERE

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1948

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LIVERPOOL

C. TINLING AND COMPANY, LIMITED, PRINTERS, 53, VICTORIA STREET

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District of Windermere.*

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Urban District during the year 1948.

Three Acts of Parliament which became operative during the year have completely re-orientated the position of the public health service in the social structure of England. I refer to the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

I believe that these statutes offer great opportunities for advancement in the primary functions of hygiene and preventive medicine.

The progress of post-war recovery has encouraged the resumption of many of your public health duties which have been in abeyance for over eight years. Determination is still needed to overcome the initial inertia.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague, the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Sanitary Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my Department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

If you desire any further particulars I shall be glad to furnish them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.



## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Urban District in acres	...	...	...	9,723
Population (mid 1948)	...	...	...	6,483
Inhabited Houses ...	...	...	...	2,059
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£74,941

The Urban District of Windermere lies in a long narrow strip down the east side of the Troutbeck Valley and for four miles along the east bank of Windermere Lake. The District slopes steeply from a level of about 800 feet in the east down to the Lake, which lies at about 130 feet above sea level. The slopes are well wooded and exquisite vistas of most of the Lake District are obtainable throughout.

The geology of the Urban District comprises in the southern half steeply dipping Kirkby Moor Flags in the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System. In the northern half the rocks are Coniston Grits in the Wenlock Series of the Silurian System. At the extreme north, in the Troutbeck Valley, there are thin beds of Tarannon Shales, pale slates, Coniston Limestone, and then occur the Borrowdale Volcanic Series. There are occasional areas of glacial drift and some alluvial deposit in the valleys.

The climate is mild and equable. The valley bottoms are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and the open aspect to the south-west provides full access to sunshine. Temperature gradient inversions are frequent at night but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall varies between 70 and 75 inches a year, but this figure is due more to the heaviness of the rain when it occurs rather than to an undue proportion of rainy days. Snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is mainly residential in character, with a seasonal influx of holiday visitors to enjoy the amenities of the National Park. This influx raises the population to a peak of approximately 10,000. The outlying portions of the District are mainly agricultural and many of the small local industries are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide a certain amount of local employment and stability to the area to balance the fluctuating conditions in the holiday trade :—

Boatbuilding.	Machine Tool Manufactory.
Coffin Manufactory.	Laundry.
Cake Manufactory.	Toy Manufactory.
Motor Engineers.	Railway Employment.

The variety of these opportunities for local employment has kept Windermere happily free from unemployment. The industries together with the trade associated with the hotels and boarding houses have provided that economic security and local prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of the public health.

The Rateable Value of the Urban District is £74,941, and the product of a penny rate is £303. The Rate for 1948/49 is 18/4d., of which 13/11½d. represents the County Rate.

### STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
F. T. Madge ...	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
F. C. Needham ...	M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I., M.R.I.C.S., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector	Part	Engineer and Surveyor
G. K. Farrer ...	—	Clerk	Part	Clerk to Engineer and Surveyor
B. M. Machell ...	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
J. N. Leckie ...	A.Inst.GasE.	Water Engineer	Part	Gas Engineer

There have been no changes in the staff during the year. Clerical assistance is afforded by the part-time service to the Sanitary Department of a female clerk.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General with figures for 1947 for comparison :—

Area of the District ... .. 9,723 acres.

						1947	1948	
Estimated civilian population (mid-year) ...						6,451	6,483	
Live Births.	Legitimate—	males	...	...	...	57	45	
		females	...	...	...	54	47	
	Illegitimate—	males	...	...	...	5	1	
		females	...	...	...	5	3	
	Total		...	...	...	121	96	
	Rate per 1,000 population		...	...	...	18.7	14.8	
	Rate for England and Wales		...	...	...	20.5	17.9	
Stillbirths.	Legitimate—	males	...	...	...	1	—	
		females	...	...	...	2	1	
	Illegitimate—	males	...	...	...	—	—	
		females	...	...	...	—	—	
	Total		...	...	...	3	1	
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)							
	births	...	...	...	...	24.2	10.3	
	Rate per 1,000 population		...	...	...	0.46	0.15	
Rate for England and Wales		...	...	...	0.50	0.42		
Deaths.	Males	...	...	...	...	37	35	
	Females	...	...	...	...	45	40	
	Total	...	...	...	...	82	75	
	Rate per 1,000 population		...	...	...	12.7	11.6	
	Rate for England and Wales		...	...	...	12.0	10.8	
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)								
Legitimate		...	...	...	...	1	2	
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births						9	21.7	
Illegitimate		...	...	...	...	—	—	
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births						—	—	
Total Deaths under 1 year		...	...	...	...	1	2	
Rate per 1,000 live births		...	...	...	...	8.2	20.8	
Rate for England and Wales		...	...	...	...	41	34	

	1947	1946
Neo-natal Deaths (under 1 month)		
Total neo-natal deaths ... ..	—	2
Rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	—	20·8
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years)		
Deaths ... ..	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ...	5·8	3·3
Maternal Mortality		
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... ..	—	—
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... ..	—	—
Total deaths ... ..	—	—
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ...	—	1·02
Rate for England and Wales ...	1·17	—

Deaths from certain causes :—	1947	1948
Cancer ... ..	12	9
Measles ... ..	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ... ..	Nil	Nil

The main causes of death were :—		
Heart Disease ... ..	...	30
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ... ..	...	13
Cancer ... ..	...	9

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## COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar-General's estimate of your civilian mid-year resident population was 6,483, which is 32 more than last year. This increase may be represented as an excess of births over deaths of 21 and an immigration into your District of at least 11 persons.

This estimated figure of 6,483 indicates that your population is becoming more stabilised after the fluctuations of the war years, and that the level is about 600 above your pre-war average, but a proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

When Windermere and Bowness were amalgamated in 1905, your population was 5,061, so your District has not shown any marked changes in the total population over the past 40 years, except for 1940 and 1941, when you absorbed an additional 1,500 war evacuees and factory workers, who returned home gradually between 1942 and 1945.

You have not maintained your population by your own reproduction. You have relied upon the yearly immigration of people from other areas to keep up your numbers. That is why you have a predominantly elderly population.

Never once in the ten years before the 1939-45 war did your births exceed your deaths in number, and your birth rate in that period was usually only about 70 per cent. of the average for England and Wales. In 1947, you reached the nearest you have ever achieved to the national average, and the highest rate you have attained in the last quarter of a century. I fear that this was merely a passing phase and that your natural decline will continue. The residential charm of the District will attract all the immigration you will need to maintain your numbers.

### **Birth Rate.**

I have already referred to the continued low birth rate. Apart from the local economic circumstances the effect of the two wars aggravated the position. The present child-bearing and begetting population suffered twice. There is a sad gap in their ranks due to the unborn casualties of the First World War, and at the onset of the Second War their marriages were delayed, prevented or frustrated at the time of their maximum fertility. If your native community is to survive

you must raise your birth rate well above your death rate and to do that you will have to recapture and hold the faith of your young people in your local life.

### **Still-birth Rate.**

Your still-birth rate was satisfactory.

### **Death Rate.**

Your death rate was approximately the same as the average for England and Wales, a position which has been fairly constant during the past quarter of a century.

### **Infantile and Neo-natal Deaths.**

Infantile deaths are deaths in children under the age of one year, and included in this figure are the neo-natal deaths which are deaths in children under one month of age. This distinction helps to separate the deaths which are due to factors connected with pregnancy, childbirth and abnormal development which are more likely to cause death within the first month, from the factors connected with infant management which are more likely to cause death between one month and one year.

There were two infant deaths in 1948, both neo-natal. The rate was 20·8 per thousand live births. Your figures are too scanty to carry statistical significance on their own merits, and since 1910 your infantile mortality rates have shown wide fluctuations from year to year. Your pre-war record over a five-year period was well below the national rate and reflected a very satisfactory improvement in child care by the local doctors, nurses, and above all by the young mothers in their homes.

The neo-natal deaths contain what we might call the hard core of "unavoidable" infant deaths. Many of these in the past have been due to prematurity, abnormality, or are the result of difficult childbirth. It does not appear likely that science will be able to prevent development of abnormalities but there are high hopes that blood tests and the increased availability of obstetrical specialists will help to reduce the number of neo-natal deaths.

### **Maternal Mortality.**

Your clean record has been happily maintained.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Total.	Ages.											Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-		
Scarlet Fever    ...    ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	I	—	I	—
Measles    ...    ...	35	I	2	8	5	2	10	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough    ...	7	I	I	I	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL    ...    ...	45	2	3	9	5	4	14	7	—	—	I	—	I	—



## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

*Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 143-170.*

*National Health Service Act, 1946.*

There was a sharp outbreak of measles during September and October. Many of the cases occurred in one of the local boarding schools, and were probably imported at the beginning of the term. Apart from this outbreak there were only a few scattered cases of whooping cough during the year and three cases of scarlet fever during June.

### Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to record that there were no cases of diphtheria during the year. The steady decline of this disease has undoubtedly been due to the effect of immunisation. This free service is available to all, and comprises two small injections into the arm, between the ages of eight months and one year, with a reinforcing dose on starting school at five years old. This gives protection against this deadly disease. I wish to thank the local doctors and district nurses for their efforts to secure the immunisation of every baby before the first birthday, and the school medical officers for their part in helping to wipe out diphtheria in Windermere.

### Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

*National Health Service Act, 1946, Parts II and III.*

The current arrangements during 1948 were :—

Smallpox ... .. Fairhill Isolation Hospital, Penrith.

Other Diseases ... .. Lancaster and District Isolation Hospital.

The motor ambulance belonging to Kendal Borough was chartered as required for conveyance of infectious cases to Hospital from the District. This function was transferred to the County Council on 5th July, 1948, as part of the General Fire and Ambulance Service.

### Disinfection Arrangements.

Disinfection facilities for clothing and bedding are not very satisfactory owing to the lack of a steam disinfectant. It is, however, possible to obtain this service from neighbouring authorities.

Disinfection of premises and other chattels is carried out by experienced staff locally and presents no special problems.



TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	I	—	—	—	I	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	I	—	—	I	I	—	—

HOUSING.

Present Housing Position.

*Housing Act, 1936, Section 57.*

There were 2,059 inhabited houses on your Rate Book at the year end. With an estimated population of 6,483 the average number of persons per house is 3.1. This is a hypothetical figure as many of the larger houses have only one or two occupants, and some of the smaller houses are occupied or let furnished only in holiday times by absentee landlords. It seems probable that the workers' houses have an average of at least four persons per house, which is not an excessive figure for a desirably-sized family.

### **Overcrowding.**

Two cases of overcrowding have come to my notice, one in a dwelling-house and the other in a permanently inhabited caravan. Without a door-to-door survey it is impossible to make any reliable assessment of overcrowding, but the figure of the average number of persons per house does not suggest any serious overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act, 1936.

This Act assumes that living rooms are used also for sleeping purposes, and that the sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health or family relationships. Assessment of overcrowding based on a minimum bedroom standard is long overdue and would provide a more realistic picture of the manifold domestic difficulties which are reflected in the long application lists for your new houses.

It is probable that overcrowding is temporarily increased during the peak of the holiday season, but no certificates under Section 61 of the Housing Act, 1936, have been granted by your Council to authorise exceeding the permitted numbers.

### **General State of Houses.**

The general state of the property in your District is good. A few of the older houses are in poor condition. These old houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp proof courses which cannot be remedied without excessive work in underpinning. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a very slow process, but heavy repair costs and low rentals have made housing repairs unprofitable to the landlords. These sub-standard dwellings will in due course be dealt with under the Housing Act, but they are overwhelmingly out-numbered by the well maintained and sound property in your District, over a thousand of which have been built since 1901.

The Calgarth Housing Estate merits special comment. It consists of brick-built single-storey blocks constructed in 1940 as temporary dwellings and hostels for war-time workers at the adjoining factory. An undertaking was given that these buildings would be removed within 10 years. On the closure of the factory and the dispersal of the workers your Council requisitioned the buildings from the Ministry of Works and has commenced the conversion of some blocks into temporary dwellings.

It is my opinion that these conversions provided a quick and much-

needed supply of temporary houses, below the standard of the Government sponsored prefabricated bungalows, but quite well equipped with modern amenities for meeting a short term need. They are not without defects, and complaints of dampness are received from time to time. I have inspected many of them in winter-time and I have had war-time experiences of living in this type of unlined brick barrack hut so I know these defects. They are not a bad makeshift until proper accommodation can be provided in traditional houses.

I must stress however the essentially temporary nature of these houses, and as they are intrinsically substandard dwellings I feel that their continued occupation should be a stimulus to the planning and starting of traditional houses to replace them. The temptation to regard them as an easy solution of the local housing shortage for an indefinite time must be resisted as a retrograde step in accepting a standard of accommodation which is well below the spirit of the times.

### **Housing Act Action.**

No formal proceedings were taken for the condemnation of houses during the year on account of the continuing shortage of houses. Informal action was taken to remedy the plight of several families found to be permanently inhabiting vans and sheds in your District. Only one of these remained outstanding at the year end and will require formal action.

Some preliminary work was undertaken during the year to prepare for future action on condemnable property. In this way you will avoid subsequent delay, the operation of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, will be facilitated, and your new housing requirements can be more accurately assessed.

### **Closing Orders.**

*Housing Act, 1936, Section 12.*

There were no Closing Orders in force at the year end.

### **Undertakings.**

*Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.*

There were two Undertakings not to use premises for human habitation in force at the year end. All these were being properly observed.



**Demolition Orders.**

*Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.*

One Demolition Order which was made in 1934 remains outstanding and is still occupied by the original tenant. This is not very satisfactory.

No Demolition Orders were made during the year, but certain premises have been found to be ripe for action in the near future.

**Clearance Areas.**

*Housing Act, 1936, Section 25.*

There are no declared clearance areas.

**Condemned Houses Occupied by Licence or Regulation.**

No condemned houses have been occupied by bombed-out persons by your licence under Defence Regulation 68A, nor by persons inadequately housed by your requisition under Defence Regulation 51.

**Estimated Requirement for New Houses.**

*Housing Act, 1936, Section 71.*

In conjunction with your Building Surveyor I estimate the following figures will provide an approximate guide for your future long-term planning of housing requirements :—

Replacement of condemned houses still occupied	...	...	1
Replacement of condemnable houses	...	...	20
Replacement of temporary dwellings	...	...	250
Provision of houses for each family unit not included in the above figures	...	...	49
Total	...	...	320

**Local Authority Housing Schemes.**

Your Council has eight houses in course of erection on the Oldfield Estate, and approval has been obtained from the Ministry of Health for the construction of a further six. An additional 20 are planned for this site.

There is a very pressing need for more close attention to be given to the preparation of housing schemes for your District. At the year end Windermere shared bottom place with 21 others in the 1,470 housing authorities in England and Wales whose post-war housing progress is listed in the published returns.

Your area has peculiar difficulties which are contributory to your



position. Site works are difficult on account of rock and the scarcity of level ground. The District is far removed from building resources which are likely to be able to deal expeditiously with a programme of the size which your need dictates. The situation of your District in the National Park calls for a standard of layout and external treatment which is so costly that it becomes somewhat incompatible with the mass standards of state-aided housing.

These difficulties need not engender such dismay that we should rest content with our Jeremiad. Even if we are not in a position to start building at present, subsequent delay could be minimised by the selection and clearance of sites and acquisition of the land.

I submit that your Council should acquire land for the entire estimated need of 350 houses, with scope for future development, and press on as far as possible with the preparation of the sites and your plans.

If this problem is not tackled resolutely your newly-married couples must face an indefinite sojourn in one of the parental homes, and about a thousand of your men and women will be condemned to spend the best part of their lives living in those poor huts on Calgarth, unless they are to be driven out of the district by despair.

### **Housing Building Progress.**

No new permanent houses were completed during the year by your Council nor by private enterprise.

The only post-war houses completed have been two by private enterprise. There were six houses under construction by private enterprise at the end of the year.

Your Council provided a further 14 separate dwellings by the conversion of single-quarters huts at Calgarth.

By private enterprise three dwellings were provided by the conversion of existing buildings.

### **Tenants Selection.**

The present method of selecting tenants for your Council houses is for your Housing Sub-Committee to consider all the applications and then select the tenants whom they consider are most in need of being rehoused. No points system is in operation and there is no anonymity.

The application lists were checked at the year end and there were about 270 families still desiring permanent houses. About half of these are without a house of their own at present.

**Housing Management.**

Your Council now own 72 dwellings. Routine repairs and maintenance are carried out partly by direct labour and partly by local contractors. Rents vary from 6/- to 14/- per week, exclusive of rates, and the rateable value of the Council houses are between £9 and £27.

**Verminous Houses.**

*Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 83-85.*

No action was necessary during the year.

**Nuisances and Notices in Dwellings.**

During the year the following action was taken :—

Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	6
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	0

In no case was it necessary to obtain an abatement order from the Court. There was a general desire on the part of owners to remedy defects in spite of the current difficulties of controls and the shortage of labour and materials.

**Dangerous Buildings.**

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 58.*

Action was necessary in the case of one stable at Bowness. This was demolished and a small road improvement was effected.

**Tents, Vans and Sheds, and Moveable Dwellings.**

*Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 268-269.*

Two licensed camping sites were on the Register at the end of the year. No action was taken during the year. Your Council imposes conditions upon the grant of licences and requires their annual renewal. As this District is within the nucleus of the future National Park it is most desirable that strict but unobtrusive supervision should be exercised over camping sites to ensure that the natural beauty of the country is not despoiled by the careless few.

Unlicensed camping sites are scattered throughout the District but very little nuisance arises from casual campers. The improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal cause little trouble, but campers take water from polluted becks at their own risk.

Three wooden sheds and one wheelless caravan which had been discovered last year, and which were permanently inhabited, were dealt

with. Remedy of the wooden sheds were secured but it will be necessary in 1949 to proceed against the caravan under the Housing Act, 1936.

No individual licences were in force at the year end.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948.**

No action was required under Section 47 for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

## **WATER SUPPLIES.**

### *Water Act, 1945.*

My Annual Report for 1947 provided a very detailed account of the historical, geographical, geological and technical features of your two sources of public water supply at Dubbs and Ghyll Head. This year's report will be limited to progress records.

The public water supply is adequate in quantity and fairly satisfactory in quality. The results of laboratory examinations of the water samples taken during the year are set out in Appendix "A." A scheme for frequent and regular sampling of both raw and treated waters has been instituted.

### **Dubbs Supply.**

The sanitary arrangements at the annual sheepdog trials held on your gathering ground were under my personal supervision during 1948. I consider that the risks of pollution of your reservoir were minimised.

Improvements to the fencing of the reservoir were made during the year and sheep were excluded. Some manurial pollution by animals on the catchment area is inevitable.

Provided that efficient supervision of the gathering ground is maintained I do not consider that chemical sterilisation of the water is necessary in time of peace. It would constitute a third line of defence after storage, but I feel that this aspect must be viewed in relation to the other factors described in my Report for 1947.

I am still of the opinion that filtration is most desirable for both the maintenance of purity and for minimising incrustation in your distribution mains.



### **Ghyll Head Supply.**

The condition of this supply has deteriorated. It was discovered during the late summer that the gathering grounds of your reservoir was being used for camping and field craft training by the Organisation which owns most of the land. The construction of shallow latrines and sullage pits constitutes a very serious risk of human excretal pollution of the public water supply. Your Council are pursuing all possible steps to overcome these risks.

I have recommended that the supply shall be chlorinated before camping activities recommence next season, and constantly maintained thereafter until the question of the use of the gathering ground has been settled to my satisfaction.

The condition of Candlestick Moss catchment area is very poor. The runners need retrenching and the water is stained with peat. The upper end of the reservoir is very shallow and shows a heavy growth of weed. On the whole Ghyll Head is not a very desirable source of supply, although by filtration, alkalisation, and chlorination it can be made usable. I would prefer to see its abandonment if a less troublesome and risky source could be found.

In conclusion I have to advise your Council that the other recommendations contained in Memorandum 221 of the Ministry of Health should be constantly observed. Your Council has the double responsibility of supplying pure water as undertakers, and of safeguarding the health of your population as a Sanitary Authority.

The Water Engineer informs me that the number of houses connected to the public supply is about 1900, which leaves 138 reliant upon private supplies. There are stated to be no houses supplied from standpipes. No extension schemes are contemplated at present.

I have no official knowledge of the quantity of the private water supplies but I suspect that the quality of the average supply fluctuates widely, and I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals, and that if in doubt they should boil it.

One case was referred to the Westmorland Agricultural Executive Committee on application for a grant for a private farm supply. The source was found to be unsatisfactory and the supply was not approved. An alternative scheme was prepared for service from the public main.



## SEWERAGE.

*Public Health Act, 1938, Sections 14-15.*

The greater part of your District is provided with public sewerage which was installed or relaid during the last 35 years. Before that time the old sewers were in separate systems for the three disposal plants at Braithwaite Fold, Beemire and Troutbeck Bridge. In 1911 your Council commenced the present disposal works at Tower Wood, relaid some 8 miles of public sewer, and converted many of the old sewers into surface water drains, completing the main works in 1926.

Sewage has to be pumped to Tower Wood at two points in the system. The first pump is situated at Calgarth and the second at Bowness Bay. There are storm water overflows in connection with each of these plants for the excess to pass directly into the Lake. Considerable difficulty has been experienced during the year in securing replacement of worn out parts of the Bowness pumps. The dry weather flow of sewage received at Tower Wood was estimated in 1940 to be 506,115 gallons per day, which is a high figure for the population served by the sewerage system, and suggests considerable infiltration water. As prolonged dry weather is not common in your District the normal working level of the flow under average climatic conditions is between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 gallons per day, which is rather a dilute sewage. Gas works by-products cause considerable trouble and were noted in the report of my predecessor as far back as 1926.

The general provision of plant is satisfactory for producing a good effluent. The load on the works could be reduced considerably if infiltration water could be diverted. The present storm water tanks are not satisfactory and some modifications may be needed.

The majority of the houses which are not in the sewerage area use cesspools and septic tanks. A few pail closets still exist in some of the older property, and a few privies and privy middens are in use in the outlying parts of the District. There were no conversions to water closets during the year, and your Council has not made any grants for this purpose under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

## Public Conveniences.

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 87.*

Public conveniences are sited at Bowness Bay, Pinfold, New Road, Broad Street and Queen's Park. There is need for an additional convenience for both sexes at the Glebe Road Car Park to cater for the weekend motor coach traffic.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

### **Refuse Collection.**

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 72.*

Domestic refuse is collected from the whole of your District with the exception of a few detached and isolated dwellings. Your Council's own vehicles and staff are used for this work. Recent supply shortages have caused considerable difficulties in maintaining vehicles in a serviceable condition.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 76.*

Refuse is tipped at Braithwaite Fold, Bowness. Controlled tipping is aimed at, but the local scarcity of covering material entails undesirably extensive tip faces. This tip is getting full and when a new site is chosen I recommend that it should be situated further away from the populous areas.

The whole matter of refuse disposal has always been difficult in your District. The natural beauty of the country must not be desecrated by dumps of ugly human refuse, yet the refuse must be put somewhere and the land does not yield enough covering material to hide and minimise the consequent nuisances of unsightliness, smell, rats and fire.

In the days of horse-drawn refuse carts and local contractors it was obviously imperative to use multiple local tips, but now motor transport has changed the situation. You have in the past tipped at Calgarth, Queen's Park, Bowness shore, Rayrigg Estate, the New Road Lavatory site, and sundry other small sites, and some very useful land improvements have resulted.

I consider that you should aim at securing a new site which will last you for many years and which is so far removed from dwellings or beauty spots that the shortage of covering material will not matter so much.

### **Salvage of Waste Materials.**

*Salvage Recovery Order, 1940.*

Salvage is carried out in the national interest at a loss to your Council. It is quite obvious that with such a small population the sorting and collection of waste materials will be most uneconomical. However, your Council are aware of the wider issues and they have ensured that the salvage of waste paper has been steadily maintained and the public stimulated at intervals to improve their yield.

### **Street Cleansing.**

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 77.*

This work is undertaken by the Highways Department and the streets are well maintained.

### **FOOD AND DRUGS.**

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder, your Council has the duty of carrying out specific responsibilities in the registration of certain food premises, in the supervision of milk and dairies, and in the wide field of protection of the public from food-borne diseases. The County Council are responsible for the licensing of designated milk producers, the adulteration of food-stuffs, and the supervision of the sale of drugs.

The Act came into force just before the commencement of the late war, and apart from the Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations which were continued from earlier Acts, the full operation has not yet been fully achieved. The Ministry of Health is sponsoring a vigorous campaign against food-borne diseases and the proper implementation of the Act should give a greater measure of protection to the public. The co-operation of the catering trade and the education of all food-handlers in a high standard of hygiene will be sought under the wider powers provided by the Act.

### **Precautions against Contamination.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13.*

Food traders and caterers observe a fairly good standard of cleanliness on the average, but considerable work lies ahead in raising the standard of those who are now below that average. I want to see cleaner food, cleaner premises and cleaner food-handlers.

This aim is of major importance. It will involve my department carrying out your statutory responsibilities with particular diligence, and it will require the education and co-operation of all food-handlers within your Area.

I am confident that this co-operation will be forthcoming. I believe that traders are eager to set their premises in order in the interests of enterprise and competition, and that they are anxious to eliminate slipshod methods among their staffs.



Thorough cleanliness in the kitchen is far more important than titivation in the dining room. No food trader nor caterer should be ashamed to show his customers behind the scenes, and every customer should be confident that the food he eats is clean and has been cleanly prepared. He has a right to be so protected and your Council is the guardian of that right.

Food-borne disease, mild dysenteries, and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes, and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

### **Ice-cream Trade.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.*

*Ice-cream (Heat-Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.*

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale	...	3
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	... ..	2
Storage and sale only	... ..	13

A comprehensive code of standards for ice-cream factories, plant and retail units was approved by your Council and circulated to the traders.

### **Prepared Meats.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.*

The number of premises on the Register under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat, pressed meat, and pickled foods was ten at the year end. No particular difficulties have been encountered in these trades.

### **Registration of Dairies and Dairymen.**

*Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943.*

Total number of registered Dairies	... ..	18
Total number of registered Dairymen	... ..	21
Producer-retailers within the District	... ..	13
Producer-retailers outside the District	... ..	8
Retailers from premises within the District	... ..	4
Retailers from premises outside the District	... ..	0

Forty-two visits of inspections were made to milk premises.



Four reports were made for the Westmorland Agricultural Executive Committee on cowsheds and dairies under consideration for the production of designated milks.

Premises are gradually being improved and all notices were informal.

The retail distribution of milk is both by bottled milk and the old-fashioned loose method. Traders are becoming keener to meet the desire of the enlightened consumers for bottling. Rationalisation of milk rounds is still in force and is not in the best interests of the consumers. Tuberculin Tested (certified) milk is available and is retailed in a type of wax carton which is especially commended. No pasteurised milk is available.

### **Cleanliness of Milk.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.*

No milk samples were taken during the year on account of the pressure of other duties. In the forthcoming year it is planned to sample each retailer at quarterly intervals.

### **Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.*

No samples were examined biologically in guinea pigs for the presence of tuberculosis organisms. The finding of tubercle bacilli in milk is difficult and one must bear in mind the human biological tests on your own children with their tragic record of 26 new cases and three deaths in the past 10 years from non-respiratory tuberculosis. The growing popularity of the Attested Herds Scheme and Tuberculin Tested Milk production, together with the pasteurisation of Accredited and ungraded milks will gradually reduce this toll of human suffering. Quarterly testing will be carried out in 1949.

No instances of other disease-producing organisms in milk were found. We know that *Brucella Abortus*, the organism which causes contagious abortion in cattle and undulant fever in man, can be isolated from a good proportion of bulked milk supplies, and it is probable that mild infections constantly occur. No serious cases have been encountered and the veterinary profession is taking steps to inoculate cattle against the disease.

It was not necessary to stop any milk supply or restrict the activities of any milk-handlers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943, on account of infectious disease.

## Designated Milks.

*Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946.*

The County Council is responsible for the granting of annual licences authorising the use of the special designations “ Tuberculin Tested ” and “ Accredited ” in respect of establishments at which the milk is produced and bottled or only produced. The following establishments in the District were so licensed :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	4
Accredited	...	...	4

Your District Council is responsible for the granting of annual licences authorising the use of the special designation “ Pasteurised,” and for the granting of dealers’ and supplementary annual licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milks. The following licences were in force during the year :—

### Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milks.

*T.T. Accredited.*

Form B. Licence in respect of an establishment (not being the establishment at which the milk is produced) at which the milk is bottled	...	...	...	o	o
Form B. Dealer’s Licence in respect of each shop or other establishment (not being the establishment at which the milk is produced or bottled) at or from which the milk is sold	...	...	...	o	o
Form D. Supplementary Licence with respect to milk sold from a shop or other establishment which is outside the area of the licensing authority	...	...	...	o	o

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### Pasteurised Milk.

Form C. Pasteuriser’s Licence in respect of the establishment in which the process of pasteurising is carried on, and of any shop or other establishment in the area of the same licensing authority at or from which the milk is sold by the same dealer (Holder Process)	...	...	...	...	o
Form E. As for Form C with the exception that the pasteurisation process shall be by the High Temperature Short Time Process	...	...	...	...	o
Form B. Dealer’s Licence in respect of each shop or other establishment (not being an establishment covered by licence under Form C or E) at or from which the milk is sold	...	...	...	...	o

T.T. Accredited.

Form D. Supplementary Licence in relation to milk  
 sold from a shop or other establishment which is out-  
 side the area of the licensing authority ... .. 0

There are no pasteurisation plants within the District, nor are there any plants for the heat treatment of milk in accordance with the Ministry of Food's action under Defence Regulation 55G.

### **Adulteration of Milk and Other Foods.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 1-7.*

This matter is the responsibility of the County Council and I anticipate that the County Medical Officer of Health will include in his Annual Report some information on this aspect.

### **Licensed Slaughter-houses and Knackers' Yards.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 57 61.*

There are three licensed slaughterhouses but these are not now in use on account of the centralisation of all slaughtering under the Ministry of Food's arrangements. There are no knackers' yards in your District.

### **Condemnation of Meat.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 10 and 12.*

All slaughtering is carried out at the Kendal Abattoir where the meat is inspected by the Borough Inspectors. No meat was condemned in your District.

### **Condemnation of Other Foods.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 10 and 12.*

The following foodstuffs were condemned by your Inspector during the year :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	24 tins.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	14 „
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	50 „
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	6 „
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	11 „
Prunes	...	...	...	...	...	64 lbs.
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	1 bottle.
Treacle	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Ryvita	...	...	...	...	...	48 ½-lb. packets.
Apples	...	...	...	...	...	270 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	21½ stones.



### **General Sanitary Inspection.**

Your Council employs one part-time Sanitary Inspector and his salary is apportioned between his sanitary inspection duties and his other duties in a proportion approved by the Minister of Health. You receive through the County Council a grant of one-half of that apportionment of his salary allocated to sanitary inspection and this should therefore be the basis upon which his time is devoted to the various duties.

Although the relaxation of civil building control afforded some relief during the year a very much greater added burden was imposed by your Council accepting delegated powers under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

This involves a volume of detailed clerical work of an imperative nature which is hardly commensurate with the few powers conferred on your Council. The bulk of this work falls upon the same man.

It is proposed next year to add the managership of the water undertaking. I consider that it is time that this position was reviewed as I am not satisfied with the continued encroachments made upon the time of the sanitary inspector.

It is difficult to arrange duties in combined appointments in a small local authority, particularly when an Inspector is single-handed, and there has to be considerable elasticity to cover all the responsibilities. I am keeping this matter under close review as I am of the opinion that sanitary inspection work is being prejudiced by these other duties.

Your Inspector carries out his duties in a most able manner, and during the year he made 564 inspections on all types of work, but there is a limit to what one man can do in a day, and we are both anxious to maintain the efficiency of our Department in carrying out your Council's responsibilities.

### **Offensive Trades.**

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 107.*

There are no offensive trades in the District.

### **Factories.**

*Factories Act, 1937.*

There are 63 factories on the Register ; 46 inspections were made. No written notices were issued and no prosecutions were required. No references were made to H.M. Inspector and none were received from him.

No lists of outworkers were supplied to your Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect.

There are no basement bakehouses in the District. No detailed survey has yet been taken of the means of escape from factories in case of fire.

Form 572 (Revised) was sent directly to the Minister of Labour and National Service, giving the details of your District's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

### Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	14	9	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	49	37	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	63	46	—	—

There were no cases in which defects were found.

### Shops Act, 1912-1936.

Occasional visits were made under the Shops Acts for the supervision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and the maintenance of suitable temperature. These duties are not adequately covered at present due to the prior claims of other work, but it is hoped to increase the supervision next year. Informal notices were served whenever any contraventions were observed.

### Common Lodging Houses.

*Public Health Act, 1936, Part IX.*

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

### **Rent Restriction Acts.**

No action was taken during the year under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts, and no contraventions of Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1936, regarding rent-book entries, were encountered.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

*Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 101-106.*

Several Informal Notices were served during the year to abate smoke nuisance from a laundry chimney in Windermere.

### **Laboratory Services.**

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 196.*

Satisfactory laboratory facilities were available both at Kendal and Carlisle for all public health purposes. During the previous year a new scheme was inaugurated by the Public Health Laboratory Service for the performance of all laboratory examinations of a preventive and epidemiological nature free of charge to the Local Authority and the patient. This should do much to encourage the freer use of modern diagnostic methods by general practitioners and your health department.

### **Bye-Laws.**

Bye-laws on public health matters are in force for :—

- Building.
- Burial Grounds.
- Common Lodging Houses.
- Dairies and Cowsheds.
- Nuisances.
- Slaughterhouses.

### **New Legislation.**

National Health Act, 1946, became operative 5th July, 1948.

Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, became operative 1st July, 1948.

National Assistance Act, 1948, became operative 5th July, 1948.



APPENDIX “A.”

Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies.

Nature of Test				Standards Max.	Dubbs Raw	Ghyll Head Raw	Ghyll Head Treated
<i>B. coli</i> count 37°	...	...	...	3-10	+ in 10 ml.	+ in 10 ml.	+ in 30 ml.
<i>Faecal coli/strep</i>	...	...	...	0	0	1 colony	0
Character	...	...	...	—	Not clear	Not clear	Not quite bright
Reaction	...	...	...	—	6.9	6.6	7.6
F. & S. Ammonia	...	...	...	.005	.0045	.004	.004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	.008	.0074	.009	.01
Total Solids	...	...	...	—	3.0	4.0	5.0
Hardness	Perm.	...	...	—	2.2	1.8	3.0
	Temp.	...	...	—	0	0	1.0
	Total	...	...	30	2.2	1.8	4.0
Chlorides	...	...	...	3	1.1	1.3	1.35
Nitrates	...	...	...	.1	.0176	.014	.042
Nitrites	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
0.2 Absorbed	...	...	...	.1	.0816	.194	.176
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Plumbosolvency	...	...	...	0	Suspect	—	—
Rainfall, 24 hours	...	...	...	—	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Date Sampled	...	...	...	—	9/8/48	9/8/48	9/8/48
Laboratory	...	...	...	—	Darlington	Darlington	Darlington

REMARKS.—Chemical analysis results expressed in parts per 100,000.











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